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REPORT
OF THE SELECTMEN,
AND THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1862.

MANCHESTER, N. H. :
AMERICAN STEAM PRINTING WORKS OF GAGE & FARNSWORTH.
1862.

N
352.07
L84
1862

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The amount of funds chargeable to the Treasurer
for the year ending February 27, 1862, is.....

To balance in Treasury, Feb. 27, 1861,.....	1204 70
principal of S. R. fund,.....	3348 00
principal of literary fund,.....	820 39
use of Town House,.....	50
Received from State Literary Fund,.....	155 70
from State Railroad tax,.....	275 29
from County for support of poor,.....	252 97
interest due March 1, 1862, on surplus revenue,	196 50
interest on literary fund,.....	48 88
resident list of State, County, Town and School tax,.....	2825 54
non-resident list,.....	320 96
resident list highway tax, 1861,	1354 58
non-resident list highway tax, 1861,	154 01
list of school-house tax in District No. 2,.....	194 32
list of school-house tax in District No. 3,.....	726 03
	11878 37

The amount of expenditures for the year ending

February 27, 1862,	6886 66
schools,	1039 59
School District No. 2,... ..	188 00
School District No. 3,.....	700 00
State and County tax,	1214 99
highways and bridges	26 07
resident highway in labor,.....	1362 00
non-resident highway tax, 1860-61,.....	72 00
winter roads,... ..	805 21
watering trough,.....	3 00
interest on town notes and orders,.....	172 87
abatements for 1860 and before,.....	40 55
abatements for 1861,.....	31 53

town officers,.....	280 84
incidental expenses,.....	94 57
pauper expenses,.....	807 32
discount on taxes,	27 00
School Commissioner for 1860,.....	20 12
	<hr/> 6886 66
Deduct outstanding orders for 1861,.....	886 71
	<hr/> 5999 95
By balance of account,.....	834 07
" highway taxes,.....	254 58
principal of S. R. fund,.....	3348 00
" Literary fund,.....	820 39
paid outstanding orders of 1860,.....	621 41
	<hr/> 11878 40

DISBURSEMENTS.

SCHOOLS.

Paid School District No. 1,.....	136 93
" " " " 2,.....	141 54
" " " " 3,.....	69 49
" " " " 4,.....	94 67
" " " " 5,.....	95 40
" " " " 6,.....	52 10
" " " " 7,.....	127 25
" " " " 8,.....	156 09
" " " " 9,.....	85 90
" " " " 10,.....	25 13
" " " " 11,.....	55 09
	<hr/> 1039 59

SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Paid building committee in School District No. 2.	188 00
" " " " " 3,	700 00
	<hr/> 888 00.

STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid State Treasurer,.....	345 10
County Treasurer,.....	869 89
	<hr/> 1214 99

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Leonard Page,.....	7 12	
Alpheus Goodwin,.....	95	
Joel Coburn,.....	1 25	
Perkins & Dickey,.....	4 30	
“ “	3 00	
A. Randall,.....	2 90	
John Morrison,.....	1 80	
John D. Spinney,	4 75	
	<hr/>	26 07

SCHOOL COMMISSIONER.

Paid School Commissioner for 1860,.....	20 12
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HIGHWAYS.

Paid resident list, 1860,.....	262 00	
“ “ 1861,.....	1100 00	
	<hr/>	1362 00

NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY.

Paid non-resident highway tax, 1860,.....	72 00
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ABATEMENTS.

Paid A. Plummer on Reed farm,.....	14 00	
David Goodwin on Carlton lot,.....	12 03	
M. H. Holmes' list, 1860,	14 52	
“ “ “ 1861,	19 99	
“ “ on town farm,.....	11 54	
	<hr/>	72 08

DISCOUNT.

Paid M. H. Holmes, collector,...	27 00
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WATERING TROUGH.

Paid Thomas Patterson,	3 00
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INTEREST.

Paid F. D. Anderson, parish note,.....	8 40	
Treasurer on S. C. Barker's order,.....	5 40	
“ Page's order,	1 48	
M. H. Holmes on orders,.....	3 50	
S. C. Barker on orders to March 27, 1862,..	56 91	
Treasurer on revenue fund notes,.....	97 18	
	<hr/>	172 87

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid M. H. Holmes, collector,.....	70 00
H. P. Watts, selectman,	5 63

J. N. Anderson, Selectmen,.....	7 26
Charles Adams, "	4 62
C. Boyd, moderator....	4 00
John Dickey, Superintending School Com- mittee,	36 00
Charles Adams, selectman,.....	27 53
J. M. Noyes, "	50 97
F. D. Anderson, "	18 29
M. Dickey, treasurer,.....	15 00
A. W. Mack, town clerk,	18 00
Charles Adams, paying families of volunteers,	10 00
Geo. Hurd, auditor,.....	1 18
J. S. Furber, "	1 18
J. M. Noyes, select clerk,...	10 00
David McGregor, auditor,.....	1 18
	<hr/> 280 84

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid W. H. Fisk, town account and books and stationery.....	21 50
Morrill & Silsby for record books.....	12 00
Horace Esty, repairing pound,.....	2 00
Wm. Anderson, Justice fees....	3 50
Straw & Prince, coffin for Powers boy,.....	3 50
John Shipley, care of hearse-house and re- pair of harness,.....	2 65
Thomas Major, damage to carriage,.....	25 00
Daniel Pickering, guide post and board,....	1 00
J. M. Noyes, Melvin case,.....	9 00
H. Wetherbee, " "	1 00
S. N. Bell, " "	2 00
express,.....	1 25
J. M. Noyes, expense to Claremont and Springfield,.....	4 00
J. M. Noyes, paying families of volunteers,	2 00
" " postage,.....	57
Jonathan Savery, wood,....	1 50
F. D. Anderson, case E. P. Parker,.....	3 00
	<hr/> 95 47

WINTER ROADS.

Paid Simon Mullins.....	5 00	J. Remington.....	6 40
Jonathan Young....	4 00	Martin L. Moore....	3 05
J. Pettengill.....	4 10	S. N. Payne.....	90
Wm. P. Richardson,	3 55	J. McMurphy.....	2 10
Jona. Nesmith.....	2 70	James F. Young....	9 35
J. P. Young.....	4 30	J. M. Gilcreast....	5 20
C. Nesmith.....	2 95	C. E. Young.....	3 67
S. Corning.....	2 00	P. Bannon.....	2 55
J. Templeton.....	75	Wm. Conant.....	90
D. Smith.....	95	E. Peabody.....	25
M. Wells.....	50	E. W. Harvey.....	6 20
J. March.....	2 65	J. Emery.....	5 20
M. Daley.....	3 00	H. H. White.....	5 20
O. Sleeper.....	2 80	C. Flanders.....	1 50
H. Webster.....	2 30	R. Flanders.....	1 50
J. H. Burbank.....	8 40	Samuel Flanders....	50
W. Flanders.....	1 10	Ruel White.....	50
H. C. March.....	4 00	Ephraim Young....	50
E. G. Greeley.....	6 30	Ephraim Young, 1859	2 00
Thomas Boyd.....	6 80	John Campbell.....	4 50
S. T. Towns.....	8 60	F. M. Chase.....	2 70
J. F. Twiss.....	8 60	J. Dinsmore.....	6 90
M. H. Holmes.....	2 10	G. Farley.....	1 15
M. Holmes.....	5 10	C. R. Frost.....	5 40
W. M. Holmes.....	3 00	C. Hurd.....	50
D. Gilcreast.....	4 00	J. A. Holmes.....	3 00
Wm. Anderson.....	5 55	Nathan Plummer...	6 10
A. P. Hardy.....	1 50	J. W. Rattray.....	2 40
W. S. Pillsbury....	1 90	J. D. Vickery.....	1 60
D. T. Shipley.....	1 00	Sam'l Woodbury....	6 70
Joseph Dickey.....	8 30	A. W. Simonds....	2 00
L. J. Slate, 1859....	3 80	G. Blood.....	80
" " 1860....	13 52	Mr. Barnes.....	3 30
Oliver Whitcomb,...	4 14	Alpheus Goodwin...	2 20
R. P. Clark.....	7 80	F. D. Anderson.....	2 80
John Dickey.....	5 20	W. S. Marshall....	1 30
J. Ripley.....	3 35	Daniel M. Annis....	6 50
C. P. Paige.....	5 65	I. Kimball.....	5 40
C. P. Manter.....	40	C. M. Watts.....	4 35
A. P. Ripley.....	40	J. C. Watts.....	1 00

Paid W. L. Towns.....	40	B. Griffin.....	2 00
E. A. Wiley.....	4 60	Joel Coburn.....	4 90
D. Manter.....	2 45	D. G. Coburn.....	5 00
J. Harville.....	6 00	John Adams.....	7 18
R. Kendall.....	1 45	G. A. Hill.....	1 50
J. Ripley, 1859.....	3 20	Washington Perkins,	2 50
M. C. Ripley, ".....	3 00	F. Griffin.....	2 65
Wm. Hunter.....	5 40	A. Atwood.....	2 40
S. A. Davis.....	1 30	B. Noyes.....	50
E. G. Chase.....	1 50	G. W. Peabody.....	65
D. Goodwin.....	1 80	D. A. Whittemore,..	14 86
J. Goodwin.....	3 60	R. W. Boyd.....	9 95
J. P. Whidden.....	40	S. D. Smith.....	10 45
M. Whidden.....	40	N. Alexander.....	11 00
E. Colby.....	7 70	J. L. Blood.....	12 00
J. N. Anderson.....	2 00	D. A. Whittemore,..	1 00
Peter Crowell.....	14 80	J. King.....	2 75
D. Esty.....	7 75	M. F. Dodge.....	6 00
Joseph Dickey, jr....	6 00	C. Smith.....	2 01
J. Savery.....	4 00	B. F. Whorf.....	3 38
D. Pickering.....	3 00	John Woodburn....	8 70
J. McAllister.....	3 25	E. Follansbee.....	1 91
R. & J. D. Marshall..	10 00	L. Bowls.....	1 00
E. Curtice.....	10 70	N. Chase.....	4 00
J. Esty.....	5 20	M. Avery.....	1 95
C. K. Barker.....	4 00	J. Hovey.....	1 95
A. D. Greeley.....	2 20	J. Nichols.....	1 30
D. H. Boyd.....	3 70	P. Annis.....	1 00
W. Sculley.....	9 70	F. Greeley.....	8 00
O. F. Blood.....	8 40	Robert Hall.....	1 60
Mark Morrison.....	2 75	Hiram Cutler.....	5 65
D. K. Barker.....	4 30	Aaron Cutler.....	2 20
J. D. Spinney.....	12 00	Geo. W. Cutler.....	6 85
D. Banks.....	4 00	Samuel Cutler.....	22 40
N. Smith.....	6 00	Geo. W. Annis.....	50
Orlando Page.....	2 00	B. F. Annis.....	60
John Rowell.....	3 00	J. Annis, 2d.....	5 50
J. Dana.....	5 70	Joseph Annis.....	6 00
E. P. Ela.....	9 75	John P. Wilson....	4 00
J. Alexander.....	6 50	Francis Manter.....	13 00
C. Sanborn.....	14 29	Samuel Manter.....	4 00
J. Nevens.....	13 10	John Gilcreast.....	6 30

Paid J. Young.....	6 55	J. Savery.....	2 05
D. C. Barker.....	4 00	Branch Sampson....	4 05
J. Annis.....	5 80	John Sampson.....	80
J. Morrison.....	5 40	Edward Sampson....	70
Charles Clark.....	4 70	Parker Annis.....	1 05
S. Chase.....	2 65	H. White.....	1 50
T. Chase.....	4 10	C. M. Holmes.....	14 80
J. Brickett	1 20	J. B. Emerson.....	1 00
Joseph Noyes.....	30	R. Hall.....	5 90
Benning Noyes....	1 25		
John Merrill.....	6 55		805 31

CHARLES ADAMS, } *Selectmen*
J. M. NOYES, } *of*
F. D. ANDERSON, } *Londonderry.*

TOWN FARM.

Paid salary of Superintendent.....	275 00	
S. C. Barker for wagon.....	30 00	
W. Richardson for goods	27 00	
		332 00

TOWN PAUPERS.

Paid Mrs. Mary R. Parker.....	123 27	
H. Richardson for Henry Richardson, 1860,	31 20	
H. Richardson for Henry Richardson, 1861,	13 20	
Town of Claremont for John Richardson		
family.....	18 00	
City of Nashua for Mrs. Colly.....	10 01	
C. Adams for F. C. Watts' family	12 00	
M. J. Goodwin for A. Goodwin.....	36 00	
J. M. Usher	6 00	
		249 68

COUNTY PAUPERS.

Paid W. Richardson for Joy.....	14 00	
" " " W. H. Martin.....	27 96	
J. M. Usher " " "	21 62	
Joel Coburn " " "	7 80	
C. W. Noyes " " "	5 00	
J. M. Usher for S. Bancroft.....	47 12	
" " " Mrs. Gill.....	5 63	
Wm. Anderson for "	2 63	
" " " S. Bancroft.....	26 25	
John Haynes for medical attendance for sev-		
eral persons	7 25	
		165 26
Paid families of volunteers.....		60 38

The undersigned, auditors of the town of Londonderry for the year ending March 8, 1862, have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, and find the same methodically kept, correctly cast and properly vouched.

GEORGE HURD,
JOHN S. FURBER,
DAVID MCGREGOR, } Auditors.

ALMS-HOUSE REPORT.

INVOICE OF STOCK AND PRODUCE FEB. 27, 1862.

10 tons hay.....	110 00
2 1-2 tons hay No. 2.....	25 00
3 3-4 tons hay No. 3.....	22 00
1 pair oxen.....	75 00
4 cows.....	75 00
1 horse.....	65 00
3 shoats.....	36 00
3 pigs.....	6 00
45 bush. oats.....	20 25
70 bush. corn.....	70 00
30 lbs. dried apples.....	3 00
beans.....	7 00
peas.....	75
1 3-4 bbl. vinegar.....	7 00
7 bbl. cider.....	17 50
125 bush. potatoes.....	41 67
350 lbs. pork.....	43 75
200 lbs. ham.....	20 00
8 bush. turnips.....	1 00
4 bush. beets.....	1 30
100 lbs. beef.....	5 00
42 gals. soap..	5 25
1 bbl. flour	7 25
tea and coffee.....	1 40
2 gals. molasses.....	74
40 lbs. candles.....	5 00
20 lbs. butter.....	4 00
10 lbs. sugar.....	1 00
40 lbs. lard.....	5 00
groceries.....	2 45

ALMS-HOUSE IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN.

To invoice of Feb. 27, 1861.....	932 27	
Paid Superintendent's salary.....	275 00	
S. C. Barker for wagon.....	30 00	
W. Richardson for goods.....	27 00	
	<hr/>	1264 27
		CR.
By invoice of Feb. 27, 1862.....	684 31	
received of county.....	155 54	
wagon purchased.....	30 00	
labor on winter road.....	8 55	
62 rods ditch.....	15 50	
6 rods double wall.....	5 00	
	<hr/>	898 90
Balance against farm.....		365 37

CHARLES ADAMS, } *Overseers*
J. M. NOYES, } *of the*
F. D. ANDERSON, } *Poor.*

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY. DR.

To West Parish note interest paid to Sept. 1,		
1861,.....	140 00	
outstanding orders of 1861-2.....	886 71	
orders of 1860 and before	948 50	
	<hr/>	1975 21
		CR.
By balance in treasury March 8, 1862.....		834 07
		<hr/>
balance against the town.....		1141 14
town house and Auburn road notes.....		1619 69
		<hr/>
Amount of debt..		2760 83

CHARLES ADAMS, } *Selectmen*
J. M. NOYES, } *of*
F. D. ANDERSON, } *Londonderry.*

SCHOOL REPORT.

The following is respectfully submitted to the citizens of Londonderry, by the Superintending School Committee, as his annual report:

DISTRICT NO. 1.

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Mary O. Dickey, teacher. No. present at the first visit, 58; No. at the examination, 31. This school is made up largely, in the summer, of small scholars, taxing to the utmost the energies of the most determined teacher. Few teachers have a more thorough practical knowledge of the branches to be taught, than Miss Dickey, and her methods of imparting instruction are among the best. The order of the school might have been improved, although it was up to the ordinary standard.

A portion of this school are *always* irregular in their attendance, while another portion are as *uniformly constant*. The latter class, as usual, were always ready with correct answers—had made good improvement, and rank, in scholarship, among the best in our summer schools. The teacher reports a list of *twelve* “volunteers”—all girls who had not whispered, and several who had transgressed in that respect very sparingly. It is needless to say they were among the best scholars. The list will be preserved with the register.

Susan Sanborn, Sylvina Sanborn, Louisa Dana and Selwyn Conant, were not absent nor tardy.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by Mr. Joseph R. Clark. No. at first visit, 48; examination, 42. It will be observed that the number of scholars was well retained at the examination, which is always a gratifying symptom, especially for this school. At both visits of the Committee, it was noticed that the teacher, by his uniform habits, firmness and decision, succeeded admirably in keeping good order. The school was classed with due regard to advancement, and not altogether to age, or the presumptive qualifications of the scholars themselves. The course of instruction, it is believed, was efficient throughout, producing good results.

The progress of the class in Introductory Geography deserves notice, while the first class in Written Arithmetic and the class in the Fourth Reader have a larger number of advanced scholars, than any two similar classes in town.

Payson, Dutton and Scribner's system of Penmanship, was used *exclusively*, which accounts partially for the good progress made in writing.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Mary M. Reid. No. at first visit, 43; examination, 33. Miss Reid has had many years of successful experience in teaching, is active and energetic while engaged in her duties, and succeeds in accomplishing a large amount of labor in the few hours devoted to the work of the school room. The school was found to be in good subjection at both visits of the Committee. The teacher labored faithfully to keep a still school, and consequently less whispering and useless noise were observed, than is commonly noticed in schools of fewer numbers.

The examination was rather hasty, but showed commendable progress in many of the branches. The Arithmetic classes are the most deserving of notice. The reading of the more advanced classes was heard before the Committee arrived.

The teacher remarks in her register—"None of the girls, with the exception of *seven*, have whispered during the term, and the remainder of the scholars but a few times."

Helen Anderson, Martha Jane Boyd, and Geo. Isaac McAllister were perfect in attendance, and two others were not absent.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by Mr. Samuel Gilreast. No. present at first visit, 43; when visited by the Commissioner, 42; at examination, 42. No fault could be found with the attendance, the whole number of scholars being 44, and the average a fraction over 41—a fact highly creditable to all concerned.

The term was only seven and one half weeks in length—about half as long as that of the summer. Of course the tendency would be to give the younger portion of the school a slight advantage over the older.

The teacher is one of long experience, and needs no commendation of the Committee. He enters into the details of the several branches, particularly Arithmetic, with great interest, and apparently with much success.

There are some excellent readers here, and others who might be equally as good by exercising a due amount of care, but to read *fast*, seems to be the summit of their ambition.

Two Arithmetics, Adams's and Greenleaf's, were used here, of exactly the same grade. It is plain to be seen that the time taken by the teacher in hearing one of these classes recite, when all should be in one book, is simply wasted.

Considering the shortness of the term, it is thought the school made very fair proficiency.

Thomas S. McAllister, George McAllister, Alonzo H. Nichols, Sarah G. Wallace and Mary E. Wallace, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

The interests of the common school have suffered severely in this district for several years past, for the want of sufficient accommodations, but if those interests should suffer in the future, it can, on no account, be chargeable to the same cause. During the past year, a house of ample dimensions has been erected and finished in a most substantial manner, and in a style every way satisfactory and creditable. The citizens of the district may well congratulate themselves on their ability to unite in doing so noble a work.

Mr. B. E. Blanchard has charge of the winter term, that being the only one taught during the year. But one visit was made to it by the Committee. The examination, Feb. 28th, was not attended on account of a storm, making the roads impassable. But when visited during the second week, everything in and about the pleasant school room, relating to teacher or scholars, indicated that this school would not close without rich results. Perfect order was preserved in Mr. Blanchard's peculiarly attractive manner, without a recourse to severe measures. Not a whisper was observed, nor a single disorderly act, on the part of the pupils, when the school was visited. Every branch received its proper share of the teacher's attention. The following remarks in the register, are pertinent and suggestive: "I think I never before took so much time with reading and spelling, and am happy to say I met with good success.—The scholars soon displayed an interest to such an extent, that a good amount of labor was *spent upon the spelling lessons.*"

The list following, of constant scholars, being one fourth of the whole school, attests to its good attendance: Lauraette Gregg, Mary J. Holmes, Elizabeth P. Marden, Mary H. Randall, Charles A. Blood, Wm. L. Gregg, George Gregg, Christopher Holmes, Wm. A. Randall, Martin L. Randall and John C. Sculley.

We venture to suggest that a few shade trees planted around this excellent house, as well as the one in Dist. No. 2, would be a cheap and valuable addition to the beauty of its surroundings.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Nancy S. Colburn. The teacher was well qualified for her task. Her scholarship was excellent, and her methods of instruction and discipline were almost faultless. The school, when visited, was in complete order—whisperers were "few and far between," and all the scholars placing entire confidence in their teacher—seemed to have no business before them but their legitimate work. Sickness prevented the Committee from visiting the school at the close, but at a subsequent visit to a private school of several weeks, taught by Miss Colburn, consisting of a large number of the members of the public school, it was readily concluded

ed that for real *thorough* proficiency, no school in town stood higher. The Prudential Committee and many of the citizens deserve commendation for their interest in the school—the teacher for her faithfulness, and the pupils for their diligence and perseverance.

A list of nearly half the scholars is preserved of those who refrained from whispering, and Lucy E. Burbank, Charles W. Blood, and Albert H. March, were not absent nor tardy.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by Miss Nancy J. Woods. No. present first visit, 33; examination, 31. Miss Wood's qualifications are well known, having taught in several districts in town, previous to this one. Her faithfulness and good purposes, are beyond dispute. With the excellent discipline of the summer term, her labors were comparatively easy and pleasant. The class in English Grammar, and the second class in Written Arithmetic, had learned rapidly, while the *first* class in the latter branch entered into the spirit of their work with as clear an understanding of reasons and principles, as any ever heard by the Committee.

John E. Chase, Hervey W. Woods, Willie Dodge, James M. March, Charles W. Bolles and Clara A. Smith, were neither absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Julia A. Bixby. No. at first visit, 25; examination, 24. Miss Bixby is one of those who realize that time is precious in the school room. Her plans are judiciously arranged, and vigorously carried out. The various classes of small scholars were not overlooked. They had learned a multitude of little things "above what is written" in their text books, indicating by their answers that words only were not learned to the exclusion of ideas. Good reading was a prominent feature, an evident result of good training. Writing had not been neglected.

The school was well governed and well instructed, and gave a good account of itself at the close.

Francella I. Kendall, Angie G. Page, Anna D. Sampson, Rachel H. Whittier, Eugene O. Greeley, Samuel A. Manter, George H. Manter and Willie E. Woodbury, were neither absent nor tardy.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by Mr. W. Franklin Holmes. No. at first visit, 23; at examination, 24. Mr. Holmes was well qualified in point of literary attainments, and was resolved to do his utmost towards keeping a profitable school. His teaching was very accurate. The errors often taught in the several branches in many of our schools, he carefully avoided. If he failed, it was in his ability to control unruly pupils.

Some of the boys became insubordinate, and in one or two instances, partially assumed the reins of government. Such a course does not generally work well, and the present instance was no ex-

ception to the general rule. Its evils were distinctly visible in the lack of promptness at the examination. There are many good scholars here, however, who would improve under almost any circumstances, and such we would commend for their good behavior and diligent habits of study.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS.—Taught by Miss Mary J. Reid. The numbers at the two visits in the summer were 16 each; in winter, first visit, 18; examination, 13. The winter term is the eighth Miss Reid has taught in town, which fact gives conclusive evidence that her services have been highly estimated. The discipline of the school was all that could be desired, and was only equalled by the proficiency of the scholars. Not a lisp of whispering was noticed at either term, nor a movement of the lips in studying. Every exercise was systematic, and every instruction most implicitly obeyed. The citizens of the district have shown more than their usual interest in the school, by their presence at various times, particularly at the examination. It is not wonderful, from all the favorable circumstances, that the school should have advanced quite as rapidly, and as thoroughly as any in town.

Henry Hall, in both terms, was neither absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Summer Term was taught by Miss Elisabeth Morrison. No. at first visit 32—Examination 38.

Miss Morrison has taken great pains in her own education and is well calculated to unfold the elements of knowledge to the minds of those under her care. Her methods of government and instruction, are of the most approved kind. Her earnest labors in the school room were responded to with enthusiasm by her pupils, and consequently the most satisfactory results followed.

Good evidence was given at the examination of thorough teaching, and a good degree of practical application to study. A much better class than usual in Grammar was noticed as well as one each in written and mental Arithmetic.

Three Geographies, (Cornell's series,) are used in this school, besides the two that are authorized, in all five different classes. It need not puzzle a sharp-sighted person to perceive the tendency of this consequent multiplicity of classes.

Mary Boyce, Clara D. Dickey, Mary E. Parker, Ann E. Pettingill, Laura Z. Rowell, Charles S. Chaplain, Nelson W. Emery, Oscar E. Furber and Clarence N. Garvin were perfect in attendance. There is also, a list of 19 who were absent a few days each,

but not tardy, while one was tardy but not absent. Such punctuality should be remembered. The list will be preserved with the register.

The Winter term was taught by Mr. Charles H. Boody. No. at first visit 40, when visited by the Commissioner 31, at Examination 21. Various reasons were assigned for this extraordinary diminution of numbers. Some were sick, others had left the district, others were improving the superior travelling, &c., &c. Doubtless some individuals had a good reason for absenting themselves, while others had next to none. It is always most unfortunate for the credit of a school, let the teacher be as faithful as he will, to have it dwindle down to nothing at the close. The teacher was affable in his manners and it is believed won the esteem of his pupils and gave general satisfaction to his employers.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Marianna P. Clarke. No. in attendance at first visit 59, Examination 46.

The teacher entered upon her labors, doubtless, with the fullest determination to perform well and faithfully every duty claiming her attention. The school, as is well known, is one of the largest in town, its members varying extensively in their different grades of scholarship, and requiring, in order to enforce a proper discipline, a large amount of energy, decision and experience in the work.

The teacher had been, somewhat recently, a pupil in the same district, was acquainted with a large portion of the school and had but a limited experience in teaching. These circumstances, with her naturally quiet disposition, tended greatly to neutralize her worthy efforts in keeping an orderly and profitable school. A portion of the scholars seemed to entertain an idea, in spite of their teacher's instructions to the contrary, that considerable whispering, with various other kinds of "noise and confusion" would add something to the interests of the school, at least, when spectators were present, consequently the examination was made an opportunity of taking improper liberties and exercising certain functions on their own "hook" not laid down in ordinary school regulations. From this cause and the fact that the scholars recited in exceedingly suppressed tones, the exercises were not very distinctly heard.

The class in Tower's Elements deserve to be mentioned as having made the best improvement of any in school.

The teacher remarks in her register: "I think it can be said without vanity, that some good has been accomplished, some improvement made. *Many* of the scholars, I wish I could say all, have been interested in their studies and seemed desirous to improve. The attendance has been *very much* interrupted by sickness, but sixteen have not been absent, twenty-five not tardy and ten neither

absent nor tardy." The following are the ten : Celestia A. Blodgett, Sarah E. Parker, Elnora M. Chase, Mary E. Hamblet, Charles Barker, Mary A. Barker, Janette M. Boyce, Clara E. Chase, Frank H. Brickett, and John P. Morse.

Winter term was taught by Mr. William B. Fisher. No. at first visit 61, Examination 26. Mr. Fisher labored incessantly for the maintenance of strict order. At each visit of the Committee, the School was quiet and apparently well disciplined. The examination was well conducted, and although the storm of a few days previous, and perhaps other causes, had served to diminish the numbers to a mere handful, it was in the main, quite creditable to teacher and scholars. Good classes were heard in nearly all the branches, more especially in Arithmetic, both written and mental. A class in History recited with more than usual accuracy. The teacher remarks in his register : " Frank J. Boyce and Charles O. Benson are deserving of especial commendation ; the former for being neither absent nor tardy, and the latter for being absent only one day, and that on account of sickness."

DISTRICT NO. 9.

Summer term was taught by Miss Rhoda A. Barker. No. at first visit 25, Examination 19. Miss Barker succeeded well in the government and instruction of her school, although she had never taught before. Her efforts to maintain good order and impart correct and useful instruction, are worthy of much praise. The scholars are mostly small and backward, but in the elementary branches and first principles, fair improvement was made. Classes in Geography and Colburn's Arithmetic had done remarkably well. Reading was done by the scholars with a good deal of haste, and Writing was not at all confined to Payson, Dunton and Scribner's system. Sarah E. Clark, Amanda L. Clark, Zibiah F. A. Richardson and Walter P. Clark were perfect in attendance. A list of nine scholars, nearly one half of the school is reported as not having whispered.

Winter term was taught by Mrs. Clara J. Noyes. No. at first visit 18, Examination 13. Mrs. Noyes was also a beginner in teaching. She was well prepared in regard to scholarship and did not fail in keeping her school under good and wholesome subjection.

The scholars are not enthusiastic nor hardly up to the average in advancement. The cordial interest and more united efforts of the parents would be very effective in raising the character of this school.

Very fair improvement was made in the branches generally.— Rudimental instruction was not omitted as is often the case, but was attended to carefully and yielded a fair return.

Sarah E. Clark, Walter P. Clark, William D. Hardy, John G. Hardy, Fannie A. Richardson, Abbie D. Wilson and Mary Ann Emerson were not absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

This district is annexed to No. 3 in Derry. The Summer term was taught by Miss Abbie How and the Winter term by Miss H. Jennie Marshall. Frank P. McGregor and Henry F. McGregor during both terms, and Ellen A. Pond during the Winter, were neither absent nor tardy. As usual, the scholars of this district rank the highest of any in town for regularity of attendance.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Mary J. Smith. No. at first visit, 18, examination, 21. The experience of Miss Smith combined with her disposition to begin at the foundation of things and work thoroughly up made her exceedingly useful and her school one of the most profitable we have known in the district. Strict attention had been paid to reading, not only to the first classes but also to those least advanced, in regard to pauses, correct inflections and good tones. The school is not an advanced one but *all* the classes gave good assurance to the committee that the time in the school room had been well spent.

From some judicious remarks of the teacher in the register, we extract the following, "having taught the school three successive summer terms I feel justified in saying that the character of it would be very much elevated if the parents would take a true interest in the education of their children. During the three terms spoken of, only one of the fathers of the district has cheered us by his presence in the school room—if my memory serves me right—and that one at the close of the present term."

WINTER TERM.—Taught by Mr. George W. Dickey. No. at first visit, 20, at examination, 12.

Mr. Dickey's method of illustrating and simplifying the various little difficulties that arise in the mind of the pupils, especially in Arithmetic, is admirable and what is still better, no scholar is *allowed* to pass over any thing in his text book that needs an explanation until it is plainly opened up and clearly understood. The classes gave convincing evidence of the value of this principle in their recitations at the close of the school. Only a *few* were afraid of the examination and unnecessarily absented themselves.

The citizens of this district have reason to be gratified at their success in securing the services of faithful teachers during both terms while it is certainly much to be regretted that no more than eleven and one half weeks during the year could be afforded for the education of their children. Nahum C., Isaac M., Charles G. and Sarah J. Kimball, were neither absent nor tardy.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In reporting the condition of our schools it may be well, perhaps, to begin with the fact that the sum expended for their support during the past year has been less by \$266.52 than for several years past, as will be seen by the statistics of this report. Consequently while we had 239 weeks of schooling reported one year ago for the year previous, this year your committee can report but 206 making a reduction of about one seventh of the whole. A school that was fourteen weeks long last year would naturally be but twelve this, and others would be reduced in like proportion. As this is understood to result from a simple mistake of the assessors, we have no fault to find, but it is plain from the experience of the past year that our schools could ill afford a repetition of the same thing for any great length of time. No great enterprise will advance very swiftly, at this day, without money, and although the exigencies of the times demand the most rigid economy in every branch of the public service, we must remember that the great enterprise of common school education, lying as it does, at the very root of our liberties, our rights and our social happiness, should be the last to be cramped in its usefulness or hemmed in for the want of means.

To convince ourselves that we are not yet *too* liberal, let us examine our statistics a little and see how our appropriations will compare with those of other towns in our county. Last year we returned 519 different scholars attending school not less than two weeks during the year, that being the largest number from any town or city except Exeter and the city of Portsmouth. We appropriate about \$2.51 for the education of each scholar for the year, while Deerfield, a large farming town like our own, with 495 scholars, appropriates \$3.05 for each one. Derry returns 440 and appropriates \$3.00 for each. Windham appropriates \$3.98 to each of her children, and Hampton Falls \$6.40 for the same purpose. In fact there are but four towns in the whole County that do not appropriate more money per scholar than Londonderry. This it must be remembered was our standing previous to the past year. Can we *afford* to do less?

It is believed that for the greater part our schools have been managed by able and exemplary teachers who took an honest pride in doing their work well. It is a great pity there should be *any* exceptions. Shall we not be pardoned if, in expressing a few most palpable truths, we touch the tender sensibilities of a considerable number of lukewarm teachers?

Your committee is most thoroughly convinced that *Reading*, notwithstanding its paramount importance, is most wretchedly taught, if it can be said to be taught at all, in a large share of our schools. We mean that kind of reading which is full, clear and intelligible. To be sure, we have plenty of *Reading*, such as it is; altogether too much of it. There is a great deal of ground gone over and some teachers are proud to show us how many long chapters have been devoured through the term, the very fact indicating that the work has been loosely done, and with but a slight regard to the real benefit of the pupils. But of that kind of reading where proper pauses are made, true emphasis, inflection and tones are given, making the intent of the author fully and clearly known and enforcing it irresistibly on the minds of the audience, far too little is heard or known to be taught. Some who are accomplished readers themselves, exercise the most inexcusable neglect on the part of their pupils, while those who are deficient in their own knowledge and practice are sure to communicate their errors to those under their instruction. Will teachers never realize that reading is one of the noblest *acquirements* instead of an empty ceremony?

Then there is English Grammar, intimately connected with reading, and doomed to about the same fate. The scholar finds before him a long lesson of generalities, dry and inexplicable, but he commits the *words* and recites them from day to day with perhaps scarcely a word from the teacher tending to make the task attractive, or unfolding the principles lying beneath the surface. When attempting to *apply* rules of which he knows nothing but the words, he finds himself in the dark. Every thing looks repulsive and he can see no earthly reason why he should struggle longer in so uncongenial a work; so grammar is smothered, and that scholar's time is henceforth spent, if not in mischief, in poring over some intricate problems in mathematics. Most scholars, boys at least, are so inclined; teachers permit and parents encourage it.

Spelling by no means takes the rank its importance demands. It is doubtful if there were half a dozen teachers in town who had spelling classes they were really anxious to exhibit at the examination. It is true that branch generally came last in the programme, and was often omitted for want of time, but such should not be the case. If some classes are necessarily omitted it should not be spelling. Teachers should have their classes, especially the older, take stated lessons, varying the exercises occasionally by writing the words on the blackboard or slate, and from time to time review, so that at the close of the school they shall be as well prepared for a thorough examination in the contents of the Spelling Book, not excepting the sounds of the letters, pauses and abbreviations, as in the Arithmetic or Geography. The speller now used in town is believed to be one of the best ever published, and we are sure that some of

those ambitious students who sigh for an opportunity to "try" the "higher branches," might derive some important knowledge from a careful *study* of its pages.

As to Writing, one would think it was among the lost arts, from the scarcity of writing-books in many of our schools. Those who have adopted Payson, Dunton & Scribner's system have made decidedly the best improvement.

The branches above alluded to, combining in themselves all the principles of our language, it is firmly believed, are more neglected both by teachers and scholars than all other studies taught in our common schools. It is worthy of notice that, while most of those who offer themselves to teach are well versed in all the main principles of common arithmetic, not more than half that number generally are accomplished in the elements and details of the English language. We are often astonished to see boys and girls plodding along through the impracticable puzzles of Greenleaf's Arithmetic and of Algebra, utterly neglecting to obtain a decent knowledge of the branches previously mentioned, all of which are inseparably connected with the language they pretend to speak, write and read. We are told that the study of mathematics has a most salutary tendency to discipline the mind. We admit it; but would not a thorough application in the acquisition of a correct knowledge of orthography, syntax, and the theory and practice of good reading, have the same effect, and at the same time furnish the pupil with a species of knowledge that will be practical, and not to be learned the second time after going out into the business world? We think we understand the importance of arithmetical acquirements, and we would by no means undervalue them; but the propriety of an *eternal round* of "ciphering," to the complete exclusion of studies equally important, and even more practical, is entirely beyond the comprehension of your Committee.

In keeping an orderly and profitable school very much depends on the capacity of the teacher to despatch the business of the school room in a life-like and systematic manner. In some of our larger schools a great amount of important work is required to be done in a short space of time, and none but a "business" man or woman can accomplish it, and do it well and in season; and one of an opposite nature is pretty sure to make a failure, and had better not try. Are any of our teachers aware that they are lacking in this indispensable requisite? How was it at the examination in a few instances? They had not the shadow of a plan laid for the business of the afternoon, no programme of exercises, no system in recitation, and hardly a "head" or a "foot" to the class; consequently much valuable time was lost, so that only about half the classes were heard that should have been, and the rest "indefinitely postponed" or "laid upon the table." If such is the method of proceeding

at the examination, when, of all occasions, the teacher would take pride in his good arrangements and business tact, we naturally conclude that things have gone along altogether too sluggishly during the term. Too often we hear the complaint that "our grammar was omitted to-day, or "our spelling was not heard," or "reading was postponed;" all for the want of a little more time, which might have been saved and every class heard with a greater degree of activity and a more perfect system on the part of the teacher.

In pointing out a few of the prevailing errors in the instruction of our youth, it would be folly to deny the fact that parents in many cases fail to exert the salutary influence which is greatly needed to aid the teacher in performing the greatest amount of good. In several instances the benefits of the school have been essentially diminished by the needless interference of parents in relation to the wholesome punishment inflicted by the teacher. If we are to have schools well governed and well instructed, the internal regulations of the school room must be made, and the work mainly done by the individual employed for the purpose, aided of course by the friendly co-operation of parents, but not forever harrassed and disturbed by that spirit of dictation which would only make him the mere *machine* of his employers. But as considerable has been said in previous reports on this point we forbear saying more for the present.

No period however was ever more favorable for reflecting on our responsibilities and duties towards supporting our institutions of learning. At no time in our nation's history could we look upon them with so much pride and satisfaction as the present. As rebellion stalks impiously and audaciously through a portion of our land, making its path desolate by fire and sword, carrying dismay, affliction and death to the fireside of the innocent and loyal, arousing all the baser feelings of the human heart in arraying section against section, brother against brother, and father against son, threatening famine to our churches, striking a deadly blow at all our benevolent enterprises, and aiming its diabolical shafts at the very heart of our government and the subversion of our dearest rights, we have the gratifying assurance that it does not and *can not* rest its slimy head on the basis of any system of *Free Common Schools*. That system, if carried out to its fullest extent, rears up and nourishes none but loyal men and women, true to their own best interests, true to their free institutions, and true to their country. As events thicken around us, calling loudly for strong intellects, wise counsellors and noble-hearted patriots, we may well inquire "who is sufficient for these things?" *Who* but the statesman reared amongst a *free* people, receiving his religious impressions in a *free* church, and the elements of his education from elevated, refined and moral *free schools*.

JOHN DICKEY, S. S. Committee.

Londonderry, March, 1862.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No. of District.	Prudential Committee.	Whole No. of different Scholars.	Average No. Sum.	Average No. Win.	Amount of money to each District.	Wages per month Summer Teacher.	Wages per month Winter Teacher.	Length Summer School—Weeks.	Length Winter School—Weeks.	Visits by Citizens.
1	Cyrus Sanborn,	85	49	47	136.93	16.00	30.00	12	10	38
2	John Campbell,	55	36	41	141.54	20.00	30.00	15	7	160
3	William Gregg,	44	39	39	69.49		25.00		11	85
4	John L. Blood,	48	29	34	94.67	15.00	18.00	9	10	107
5	Robert Kendall,	36	24	26	95.40	16.00	20.00	8	8	66
6	J. Y. Nesmith,	22	14	16	52.10	15.00	19.00	12	9	100
7	John D. Spinney,	50	33	33	127.25	12.50	27.00	12	9	79
8	Washington Perkins,	88	54	49	156.09	17.00	32.00	11	11	129
9	Warren Richardson,	33	24	16	85.90	12.72	13.50	12	11	34
10		6	5	6	25.03	15.00	16.00	9	8	22
11	Tilley H. Wheeler,	27	17	17	55.08	12.00	27.00	6	5	21

Income of Literary Fund applied to Schools,.....\$200 00

Interest of Surplus Revenue applied to Schools,..... 100 00

Amount raised by direct tax, applied to Schools,..... 739 48

Whole Amount,..... 1039 48

Amount of School money 1860,..... 1306 60